(a) whether it is a fact that teacher/employees of Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan who get transferred to North Eastern Region are entitled to retain their accommodation at the place from where they have been transferred on payment of licence fee at normal rates ;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this facility has been extended so far only to the teachers/ employees of K. Vs located at Delhi during last two years; and

(d) whether it is also a fact that this facility is discretionary on the part of the officers/principals, if so, the justification thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI RAMJIBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. KVS employees residing anywhere including Delhi in KVS accommodation prior to their transfer to North Eastern Region are entitled to retain staff quarter at the place from where they have been transferred on payment of licence fee at normal rates. However, KVS employees transferred to N.E. Region from a Kendriya Vidyalaya functioning under a Project Sector and occupying accommodation provided by Project Authorities are not entitled to such benefit.

(c) This facility has been extended to KVS employees residing in KVS accommodation without any restriction to Regional jurisdiction etc.

(d) No, Sir.

Applicability of orders from MHA in Railways

†2174. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for not accepting the order number 12/02/97/OL/s of Department of Official Language, Ministry of Home Affairs by Ministry of Railways even though it applied to all the Ministries of Government of India;

(b) if the said order of MHA is not applicable to the Ministry of Railways then how does the annual programme of oficial language apply to Ministry of Railways; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) if instructions of Department of Official Language of MHA, do not apply to Ministry of Railways, the name of the body whose directives are followed by Ministry of Railways for holding meetings of Hindi Salahkar Samiti as also for conduct of business for propagation of official language, alongwith complete details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) The reasons for not accepting the Office Memorandum of Ministry of Home Affairs are *inter-alia* as under:-

(i) Hindi staff of Zonal Railways do not belong to Central Secretariat Official Language Service (CSOLS) or Subordinate Offices of Department of Official Language, Ministry of Home Affairs.

(ii) Staff in Central Secretariat Official Language Service (CSOLS) or Subordinate Offices of Department of Official Language have had, historically, different structure in matters of recruitment qualification, mode of recruitment, designation as well as pay scales, compared to the Hindi staff on Zonal Railways. As such there has never been any parity between Hindi Assistants on Railways and Group 'C' staff of CSOLS or of Subordinate Offices of Department of Official Language.

(iii) The Group 'C' staff in Subordinate Offices of Department of Official Language, Ministry of Home Affairs have two-grade structure, whereas the Hindi Assistants in Railways have three-grade structure. Application of Ministry of Home Affairs' order dated 8.11.2000 to the Hindi staff of Zonal Railways, on the ground of parity, may entail withdrawal of the pay scale of Rs. 6500-10500 (third tier) currently available to them, which may be to the detriment of Hindi staff on Zonal Railways. Incidentally, this grade is not available to the Group 'C' staff of Subordinate Offices, Department of Official Language.

(iv) Ministry of Finance have also agreed with Ministry of Railways as regards non-adoption of the said pay scales on Railways.

(v) This could also disturb inter category relativities prevalent on Indian Railways.

(b) Implementation of Official Language Programme and allotment of pay scales are two different issues, based on different parameters.

(c) As regards programme implementation of official language, the orders and instructions issued by Ministry of Home Affairs (Department of Official Language) are followed by Ministry of Railways, wherever applicable.

Proposals of sub-committee on bridges

2175. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what were the main proposals of the sub-committee on rebuilding of old railways bridges; and

(b) whether any of those proposals have been accepted by the Railways, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) The main recommendations of the Sub-Committee were regarding taking up of Rehabilitation of certain type of bridges like Cast Iron Pile, Early Steel etc. on programmed basis, to lay down schedule of Inspection of certain type of bridges like Early Steel, Distressed bridges etc, to lay down the definition and classification of distressed bridges.

(b) These recommendations were noted and accepted and rehabilitation of bridges was taken up as per availability of funds which has picked up after sanction of Special Railway Safety Fund (SRSF). The increased frequency of inspection of certain type of bridge e.g. Early Steel Bridge, Distressed Bridge etc. was laid down in 1989 and the categorization of Distressed bridges is being done as per recommendation of the Sub-Committee.

Train from Bhubaneswar to Bhopal

2176. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways are aware that there is no direct train available from Bhubaneswar to Bhopal despite commissioning of Talcher-Sambalpur BG Link which has reduced the distance considerably;

(b) if so, whether Railways propose to extend Bilaspur Bhopal Express upto Bhubaneswar *via* Sambalpur and Talcher keeping in view the popular demand;